

REMARKS

Examiner Interview

Applicants acknowledge with sincere appreciation the courtesy of a telephone interview extended to Applicant's attorney, Justin Liu, on January 17, 2007. During the interview, no exhibit was shown and no demonstration was conducted. Claims 1 and 17 were discussed. It was agreed that the claims recite features not found in the prior art of record, and that the claims distinguish over the prior art. It was further agreed that Applicants would submit amendments substantially as set forth above, and that such amendments do not alter the scope of the claims as previously presented and are made merely for the purpose of clarifying the claim language. The Examiner indicated that the claims, as amended, would be in allowable form, provided that additional search did not turn up any relevant prior art.

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1, 3-18, and 20-28 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Claims 1, 3-14, 17-18, and 20-28 are rejected for the reasons discussed below. Claims 15-16 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement of patentable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-14, 17-18, and 20-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Whetsel, U.S. Patent No. 6,717,429 ("Whetsel"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with respect to all claims, submitting that Whetsel does not teach or even suggest the invention.

The Office Action alleges that a current injector is disclosed in Whetsel as a "combination of I/O control 1111, test enable 609 and AND gate 901." Office Action at p. 3. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that the cited combination of elements in Whetsel is not a current injector as recited in Claim 1. As shown the Fig.

11B of Whetsel, the I/O control 1111 and test enable 609 are merely inputs to AND gate 901. The output of AND gate 901 is a 3-state control signal 902 that is connected to a 3-state buffer 907. See Whetsel at Col. 11, lines 57-61. Thus, the cited elements of Whetsel merely form a control signal for enabling or tri-stating the 3-state (tristate) buffer 907, and not are not a current injector. Whetsel further clarifies the purpose of these elements in stating that the I/O control signal 1111 is set low to disable the output of 3-state buffer 907 to allow a tester 401 to input stimulus to core 605. See Whetsel at Col. 12, lines 21-27. Thus, the 3-state control signal allows the buffer to be disabled to allow for external stimulus during testing.

Therefore, Applicants believe Claim 1 is allowable, and allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 17 recites a step of enabling a current injector. As detailed above with respect to Claim 1, Whetsel does not disclose or even suggest any current injector. Therefore, Applicants believe Claim 17 is also allowable, and allowance of Claim 17 is respectfully requested.

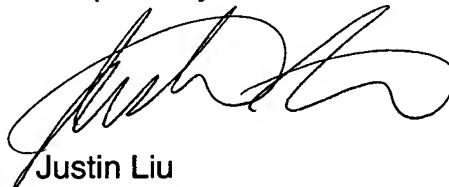
As noted above, Applicants have amended Claim 1 merely to clarify the language. The amendment merely substitutes equivalent language for the previously presented language, and thus does not alter scope of the claim. Applicants have made a similar clarifying amendment in Claim 17, which similarly does not alter the scope of that claim. The amendments are fully supported by the specification as filed.

Claims 3-14 and 27 depend from Claim 1 and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 18, 20-26, and 28 depend from Claim 17 and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 17. Applicants believe Claims 1 and 17 are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, for at least the same respective reasons, Applicants believe Claims 3-14 and 27, and Claims 18, 20-26, and 28 are also allowable, and allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that Claims 1, 3-18, and 20-28 are in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is therefore requested. If action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney, Justin Liu, at 408-879-4641.

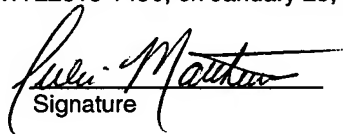
Respectfully submitted,



Justin Liu
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 51,959

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 25, 2007.

Julie Matthews
Name


Signature